



Proposed Water System Town of Merrimac

March 1, 2012

The Town of Merrimac contracted SCS-BT Squared, a civil and environmental engineering firm, to provide an independent analysis of the Alt-FS to the town board. That report is available online at <http://www.tn.merrimac.wi.gov/MerrimacWaterDistrict.htm>.

According to SCS-BT Squared, **“there is no human effort that would completely clean up all remaining BAAP-related groundwater contamination – this goal is technically and economically infeasible”**.

Simply based on this statement and what we are learning about the process, the Merrimac Town Board has stated its priority is to make certain every citizen within the proposed district is provided access to safe and clean drinking water.

Moving forward:

- At present, the U.S. Army has not made a petition to create the Sanitary District necessary to construct the proposed water utility, so the town does not have any action to take at this time.
- Once the U.S. Army files a petition in accordance with Wis. Stat. 60.71; the town board will hold a public hearing within 30 days. The public hearing notice will be published in the *Baraboo News Republic*, at our 3 posting locations (Charlie's Lakeside Mobil; Palmer Manufacturing; and the Town Hall), and on our website. We will attempt to mail (not required by statute) a notice to residents within the proposed district.
- Thirty days after the public hearing, the Town Board will make a determination. If the findings are in the affirmative, the district will be created.
- Upon creation of the district, the Town Board will have to decide if the commission will be appointed or elected. The board has not yet considered this point, but the Town's Administrator, Tim McCumber, will be recommending the town board appoint itself (Wis. Stat. 60.75) to assure construction does not begin until the town is completely satisfied with all aspects of the proposal.
- The following are some, but not all, of the priority issues that should be addressed by the commission if the town board approve the Army's proposal:
 - All infrastructure and related costs for implementation are paid for by the U.S. Army and not the residents in the proposed district.
 - This would include determining a fair compensation system for purchasing the necessary easements and other related costs for capping and closing existing wells.
 - A subsidy or trust fund that will offset operational costs to assure affected residents are not paying an excessive cost for drinking water at a rate that does not exceed the costs of operating a private well system.
 - Determine a bulk-rate fee for farmers and/or businesses that will assure they are not paying an excessive cost for safe water at a rate that does not exceed the costs of operating a private well system.

For more information, visit the Town's website at <http://www.tn.merrimac.wi.gov>.

Tim McCumber, Town Administrator

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